

A. Duties:

Serves as a Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) with region wide epidemiology responsibility for the control and eradication of domestic and exotic diseases of livestock, poultry, and other species as they involve the nation and adjoining foreign countries. Assignments involve:

- coordinating and conducting epidemiological studies of the diseases of livestock, poultry, and other species.

- developing and recommends new and improved methods and procedures for obtaining and analyzing pertinent information related to factors which cause the spread of diseases.

- may provide authoritative epidemiological expertise on the Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization (READEO) and cooperative State-Federal disease control and eradication program.

- evaluating activities and recommending broad, national eradication policies and programs among the various epidemiological or related activities in the region.

- providing authoritative veterinary medical expertise on the uniform and accurate application of national standards for the detection, diagnosis, and disposition of emergency disease problems of animals or birds.

- consulting and advising on the formation, organization, and implementation of major national and international disease programs including the systems for conducting animal disease field trials, performing pertinent laboratory work in connection with epidemiological studies, and evaluating the general competency of various State and Federal support programs.

- forecasting anticipated levels and locations of disease incidences and providing assistance in establishing immediate and long range budget and work plans for the region.

- developing scientific papers on new and improved disease detection, diagnosis, and disposition techniques and related subjects for publication or presentation to promote awareness among professionals. Participates in the regional training programs for VMOs and AHTs and provides technical guidance to insure uniform and accurate application of national standards.

- reviews regional epidemiological activities to determine their successes in disease eradication or control of their failures due to inhibiting state laws, regulations, and related instructions which may require modifications in cooperative State-Federal agreements.

- meeting with industry groups to promote compliance with technical requirements of new or modified disease eradication and control programs.

-alerting field, regional and national offices of disease trends among livestock, poultry, or other species and potential problems which may have large scale impact on the program, industry, and public health.

B. Factors:

1. Knowledge Required by the Position BMK 13-04, 1550 points

Mastery of veterinary medical science concepts, principles, and practices is required in a major disease field in which the veterinarian is the epidemiological medical authority for the development and coordination of new scientific studies, field trials, laboratory analyses, and general competency evaluations, in lieu of ineffective, ordinary eradication procedures, to insure immediate isolation and elimination of the cause for the persistent disease threatening the economy and health of the animal industry. This includes the following:

a. Skill or knowledge to incorporate advances in the veterinary medical science field into proposed, adopted, or modified disease program administration rules and regulations, inspection procedures, professional materials, and agency memoranda.

b. Ability to apply extensive knowledge of related veterinary medical sciences such as microbiology, pathology, parasitology, toxicology and other sciences, including their statistical data for a scientific analysis of the potential impact of the disease process on farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, and the environment within the region or large geographic area.

2. Supervisory Controls BMK 13-04, 450 points

The supervisor establishes the broad goals of the epidemiological assignment and program authority. The veterinarian and the supervisor consult on major activities and priorities of immediate and long range disease incidences, budgets, and work plans. The veterinarian independently coordinates and conducts regional epidemiological studies, develops and recommends new and improved procedures for obtaining and analyzing factors causing the spread of diseases, and provides authoritative expertise on effective epidemiological surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities. Alerts the supervisor and others of disease trends and potential problems with farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, or the environment which may have large scale impact on public health. Accomplishments and written reports are reviewed in broad program terms and on the basis of results in reducing, controlling, or eradicating incidences of various persistent diseases from animals and flocks in the region.

3. Guidelines BMK 13-04, 450 points

Agency regulations, policy statements, medical manuals and memoranda, uniform methods and rules, and technical publications apply only generally due to technological changes and the problems they create for epidemiological inspection and surveillance activities in the region. The

veterinarian uses enterprising and expedient professional abilities in establishing and recommending new and improved epidemiological inspection and surveillance activities and accompanying policies and programs to depart from ineffective, ordinary disease control and eradication procedures.

4. Complexity BMK 13-04, 325 points

Assessments involve the full range of epidemiological programs, policies, and procedures pertinent to the formulation, organization, and coordination of a major, national, cooperative herd and flock disease control and eradication activity in a large geographic area, usually a region. The programs, although theoretically sound, remain in a state of change due to either present, anticipated, or unexpected priorities in disease activities leading to different or new control and eradication requirements. Both immediate and long range policies and procedures require periodic reviews, field trials, and revisions to keep current. Primary responsibility is to (a) provide guidance in the development of State-Federal laws and the coordination of complex scientific activities involving the development of specific programs, policies, and procedures; and (b) initiate new disease control and eradication programs, or intensify existing policies, or recommend the termination or terminate undesirable procedures to further the objectives of disease control and eradication operations. Special Federal and State cooperative field trials are carried out concurrently with all other assignments to establish new or devise refinements of disease control and eradication concepts and methods for applicable industries.

5. Scope and Effect BMK 13-04, 325 points

Chief purpose of the position is to provide program authority in epidemiological surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities to locate and eliminate the cause for the persistent incidence of herd and flock diseases in the region. The veterinarian's conclusions and recommendations concern major disease trends among livestock, poultry, or other species and potential problems, uncertainties, and questions which may have large scale impact on the program, industry, and public health. The veterinarian's establishment and recommendation of a region-wide epidemiological study, field trial, laboratory analysis, and general competency evaluation affects the disease surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities of other professionals and experts over farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, and the environment, as well as those at the field, regional, and national, State or Federal agency offices.

6. Personal Contacts BMK 13-04, 60 points

Personal contacts are with staff and subject matter officials, specialists, authorities, consultants, and representatives of governmental agencies, industry organizations, diagnostic laboratories, national and international animal breeding associations, and public and private groups.

7. Purpose of Contacts BMK 13-04, 120 points

The purpose of the contacts is to obtain and provide epidemiological information concerning accurate and uniform detection, diagnosis, and disposition of persistent disease incidences among herds and flocks in the region. This includes establishing, coordinating and recommending surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities, epidemiological studies, field trials, laboratory analyses, and general competency evaluations. The veterinarian must be skillful in soliciting immediate and long range cooperation, promoting awareness of new and improved epidemiological techniques among professionals and other experts, and persuading difficult or uncooperative persons in controversies to apply nationally prescribed standards.

8. Physical Demands BMK 13-04, 20 points

There is prolonged standing, walking around on various kinds of farm surface conditions, and handling restrained, large, and confused animals or large heavy carcasses on rails to perform diagnostic tests or demonstrations, or to conduct gross, post mortem lesion examinations.

9. Work Environment BMK 13-04, 50 points

There is exposure to a high incidence of disease and non-disease conditions and agents, some of which are highly contagious, infectious, and communicable to humans, requiring special precautions and tight safety control coordination.

3350 Total Points